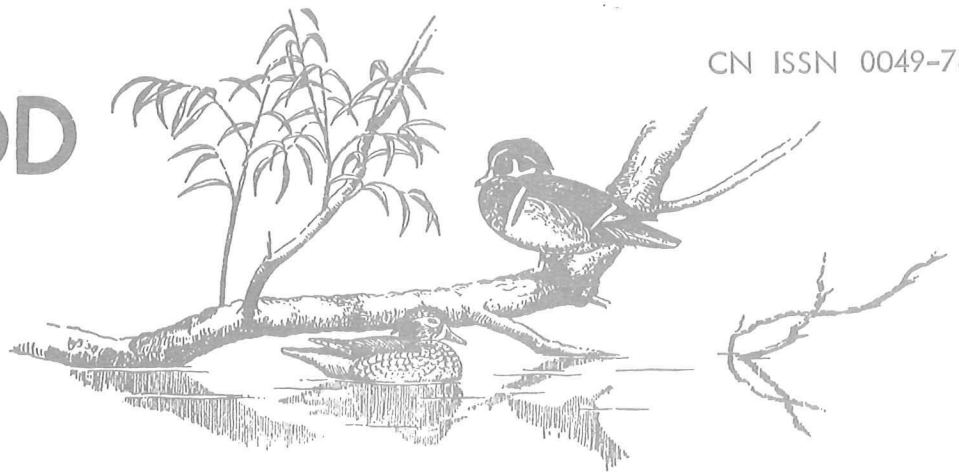
The WOOD DUCK

CN ISSN 0049-7886



HAMILTON NATURALISTS' CLUB

POSTAL STATION E, BOX 5182 - HAMILTON - ONTARIO

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 2 OCTOBER 1986

INDEX

Page 18 - Minutes of the September General Meeting
" 19 - Field Events
" 19 - The Hamilton Naturalists' Club's Bald Eagles
" 21 - The Kirtland's Warbler Today
" 25 - Auto Parts and Acid Rain
" 26 - Notice of Meeting
" 27 - Noteworthy Bird Records

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club promotes public interest in the study, conservation and appreciation of our natural heritage. Meetings are held monthly from September to May inclusive, and visitors are always welcome. Outdoor field events are scheduled for every month, and a complete listing for the entire season may be obtained from the Membership Director.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE HAMILTON NATURALISTS' CLUB, HELD SEPTEMBER 8, 1986 AT THE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

The meeting opened with members reporting recent interesting sightings. These included migrating Monarch butterflies, ospreys at Mountsburg and the Woodland Cemetery, a Merlin at Grimsby and Egrets in Burlington and Rockton.

John Struger reported on the work of the Conservation Committee particularly with regard to the Rehabilitation Action Plan(RAP) for Hamilton Harbour. Members are welcome to contact John if they are interested in supporting the work of the Committee(call 547-5116). John noted that volunteers will be needed in force to participate in the October 19th Clean-up Day at Cootes Paradise.

Bruce Duncan reported that the Board of Directors has voted to contribute up to $20,000. from the Sanctuary Fund to help the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority assemble sufficient funding to purchase 300 acres of environmentally significant land adjacent to the Fletcher Creek Swamp Forest (Crieff Bog) north of Freelton. Bruce noted that this will reduce the balance of the Sanctuary Fund considerably so that new donations to the fund will be most welcome.

Bruce also reported on his personal involvement in hacking out two young Bald Eagles, one male, one female, in the Cayuga area over the summer. The project unfortunately had a rather tragic outcome as the male has since been reported shot and killed north of Quebec City. The fate of the female is unknown. Twenty-six Bald Eagles have been introduced in the Long Point area to attempt to build up a breeding population.

Members were advised of the HRCA's 35 mm. photography contest entitled "Conservation Images". Categories include Activities, Nature Close-up and Landscapes. Entries must be submitted between November 3 and November 28. Call 648-4427 for details. (Note: all submissions must be shot during 1986 in any of the HRCA's twenty conservation areas including Confederation Park.

Following announcements, Hazel Broker introduced the speaker, Dr. H. E. Aitken, an expert bird photographer, who shared his slides with us for the next 50 minutes. Dr. Aitken took us through the year from Florida to Ontario with lovely pictures of egrets, herons nesting small birds, waterfowl, bluebirds, and many more. Following questions, George Globe thanked Dr. Aitken and the meeting was adjourned to cider and doughnuts.

Al Robson, Secretary.

****

HISTORIC BIRD RECORDS WANTED

Rob Dobos requests old water bird records from the Hamilton Harbour and Coote's Paradise areas over the last 100 years for a study being done by the Canadian Wildlife Service. He can be reached at 549-1859.

F I E L D E V E N T S

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1986 - 8:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving Weekend at Spooky Hollow - A watch for mushrooms, late flowers, and migrant birds will be combined with necessary work on sanctuary trails and facilities. Bring a lunch and meet at Mountain Plaza
Leader: Peter Thoem 681-2738

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1986 - 2:00 p.m.

Winter Identification of Trees & Shrubs - This is an opportunity to learn our native trees by leaf, bud, and bark. Meet approximately 1,000 ft. north of Millgrove Road on Hwy.#6 (right side)
Leader: Albert Butwick

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1986 - 2:00 p.m.

Dundas Valley - We will be looking for the last wild flowers of the year. Meet at University Plaza next to the Miracle Mart.
Leader: Dean Gugler 528-7169

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1986 -

Fall Bird Count - Many volunteers are needed for the annual count. Call Bruce Duncan (765-3322) for a counting area.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1986 - 8:30 a.m.

A late trip to Short Hills - We will combine sanctuary maintenance (bring saws, hammers, nails,etc.) with a review of our sanctuary in late fall. Bring a lunch and meet at Eastgate Plaza.
Leader: Peter Thoem 681-2738

****

THE HAMILTON NATURALISTS' CLUB'S BALD EAGLES

by Bruce Duncan

Back in May, I received a call from Dave Euler of the Ministry of Natural Resources office in Fonthill.

"How would you like a couple of Bald Eagles?" he asked. Well what would you say in that situation? I took them. I should say that the Grand River Conservation Authority, the World Wildlife Fund and the Hamilton Naturalists' Club took them for the Taquanyah Bald Eagles became a cooperative project involving these three organizations as well as the Ministry.

By early June, with the help of Ontario Hydro, a 30 foot high "hack" tower had been built at the eastern end of Taquanyah Lake and the 8'x8' cage atop it made ready for our two king-size babies. The Club had applied for and received $3,500. from World Wildlife Fund and M.N.R. as grants to pay part of the wages of an eagle babysitter (George Melvin) and to cover the cost of two tiny radio transmitters. Everything was ready for June 20.

At 6:30 that evening, John Toll of the Ministry arrived after a week in the Lake-of-the-Woods area with Jim Grier, the eagle expert. He had with him two beautiful dark eaglets some 18 inches tall, each sitting in a large, padded crate and probably wondering what had happened to their world. However, in a half-hour they were in the hack tower and a couple of pounds of smelt had been dumped down the feeding tube - and surprised one of the eaglets who happened to be standing under the tube. In five minutes they were eating and in fifteen examining their new home.

It wasn't long before they settled in and spent 47 days eating, sleeping, growing, exercising and looking over their new domain. George, along with volunteers from the Club and others in the area, kept a close eye on our babies and ensured that they were

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club's Bald Eagles (continued)
always well-fed and undisturbed.

By mid-July we had selected the release date based on the ages of the birds and their development over their weeks in the tower. It would be Tuesday, August 5: E - Day.

At 4:30 that morning George and I had opened the cage door as quietly as possible and walked back to the Nature Centre. Dawn was almost an hour away.

Thirty visitors were in the Centre at 6 a.m. waiting and watchin; Two monitoring teams with walkie-talkies were located away from the building, all waiting for the first move. At 6:05, our big female, "Mary Ellen", jumped out onto the front perches and five minutes late "Gustav" joined her. They flapped and jumped and occasionally went back in the cage to have more breakfast, then returned to the perches to sit and watch. About 8:40, Gustav jumped up, flapped and dropped down again - but missed the branch and was off! He flew low but very well, showing his white flecked wings for about 600 feet before he landed in a maple tree. Mary Ellen left more deliberately a couple of hours later.

For the next week, we tracked and watched as our babies at first just tried out their wings, then began flying 2,3,4 and even 8 kilometres at a time. and finally discovered that warm air rises. On August 12, after returning to Taquanyah and eating some fish at the tower (we think), Mary Ellen circled higher and higher, then glided north and west out of sight and radio range. It was the last we saw of her.

The next day, George saw Gustav do the same spectacular thing and drift off into the distance. A radio check by airplane two weeks later turned up no eagles. They were free, flying well and, we hoped would return to the general area next summer to add to the growing number of eagles in this reintroduction program. That, after all, was the whole point to translocating and raising the birds: we hoped that they along with the 26 eagles released at Long Point since 1983 would result in a breeding population along the north shore of Lake Erie in the next few years.

Sometime on September 4, Gustav was shot and killed near Lac St. Jean, Quebec about 500 miles east of Taquanyah. As I write this, I do not know the details of the shooting but I am deeply saddened by the death of this lovely bird of whom I had grown so fond. I am saddened, too, to know that there are still people for whom the rifle or shotgun is the logic in such a situation. Perhaps he was protecting his chickens, perhaps he was simply curious to find out what this big, black bird was, perhaps he hates all raptors - who knows? Whatever the reason, one of the babies is dead and all of the effort, money, time, thoughtfulness, concern - everything is for nothing.

I had named Gustav for my favourite composer, Gustav Mahler. On August 9, while the second movement of the Fifth Symphony played on my car radio, I spotted our big female as she soared in sweeping circles above the treetops. I turned up the volume and watched her circle to the music, a glorious mix of sight and sound. Now, I hope that next spring she will return and fly again over the place where she and her nestmate flew together.

THE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER TODAY

by David A. Cimprich

The eastern horizon warms to a soft orange. In less than an hour, the sun will rise. A tiny Kirtland's Warbler gives a single chip note and flaps harder to reach the dark shoreline ahead. All night it had flown westward from New Providence Island toward the Florida coast. Now the lights of Palm Beach glow quietly to its left and ahead the rhythm of the surf grows louder. The night's flight is almost over. A humid April breeze sifts through the leathery mangrove foliage beyond the beach as the warbler drops into its cover. Hopping through the tangle of branches and prop-roots, it settles on a concealed perch. Finally at rest, the warbler flips its tail, ruffles its feathers and dozes. Other birds begin their morning song. An exhausting sea crossing is over, but a hazardous flight north to Michigan remains. While this individual Kirtland's Warbler is largely at the mercy of weather, predators, and food supply, the fate of its species may be largely in the hands of man.

Four steps have been undertaken to preserve the Kirtland's Warbler and increase its population: (1) annual breeding census, (2) cowbird control, (3) control of human access to breeding areas during the nesting season, (4) habitat management. These programs have now been in operation for over a decade with a goal set at reaching a breeding population of 1000 pairs. So how does the Kirtland's Warbler fare?

Annual Kirtland's Warbler censuses have been conducted in Michigan since 1971. While this action itself does not affect the population, it is the necessary gauge that measures the success of preservation efforts and directs future action. So how has the population been doing? The 1971 census turned up 201 singing males. In 1985, 216 were tallied (Hill,1985). Between those years, the count has held near 200 with a low of 167 in 1974 and a high of 242 in 1980. While the population is not decreasing, it shows no sign of being on the increase either. Considering the effort gone into increasing the number of Kirtland's Warblers, this has been a disappointing result.

In 1972, a cowbird removal program began in Kirtland's Warbler breeding areas. By 1981, 40,000 had been captured and removed (Walkinshaw,1983). Cowbird removal probably helped halt the decline that was evident in the Kirtland's Warbler population between 1961 and 1971. Prior to the removal program, 70% of Kirtland's Warbler nests were parasitized and yearly production of young was only 0.81/pair(Mayfield, 1983). Since cowbird removal began, less than 5% of nests have been parasitized and production has soared to 3.1/pair (Walkinshaw,1983). Yet this great increase in production of offspring has not resulted in a population increase.

Kirtland's Warblers generally nest in 8-20 year old jack pine stands. Currently, less than half of the available acreage of such stands is being used by the warbler(Probst,in press). It would seem that lack of habitat may not be keeping the population down. In 1985 for the first time, four males colonized habitat made available by the management plan(Hill,1985). While this is encouraging, Kirtland's Warblers are hardly taking advantage of the available habitat. As a consequence of the 1980 Mack Lake burn which got out of control and destroyed 10,000 ha. of forest and 40 homes, available habitat is expected to increase dramatically between 1988 and 1995. It will be interesting to see if the population responds to this huge increase

So why isn't the Kirtland's Warbler population increasing? Obviously, neither habitat availability nor cowbird parasitism alone is

The Kirtland's Warbler Today (continued)
keeping them down. Most likely, it is a combination of factors. Perhaps the wintering grounds, the Bahamas, play a key role. Because the interior of these islands have been altered little in the last century, decrease in wintering habitat for the warblers does not seem likely (Mayfield, 1983). Fretwell(1981) suggests competition from the abundant Palm Warbler on the wintering grounds. Still others look to annual rainfall for clues. Ryell(1981) found that low winter rainfall in the Bahamas precedes low Kirtland's Warbler Censuses and high winter rainfall preceeds high counts. Perhaps rainfall affects food supply which, in turn, affects the number of warblers that survive the winter. To date, these ideas remain unproved.

A very popular idea involves dispersion of young birds. As mentioned earlier, Kirtland's Warblers use jack pine stands 8-20 years old. Thus each patch of habitat lasts only about a dozen years: new areas must be constantly colonized. Adult Kirtland's Warblers tend strongly to return to sites where they previously nested while young birds rarely return to sites where they were raised. These young birds may have a built-in tendency to disperse, seeking out new colonies. The same strategy is used by Field Sparrows and Prairie Warblers, whose habitats also have a short life span (Probst,1985). It guarantees occupation of newly available habitat and mixes genetic stock. However, because they are so few, the strategy backfires for the Kirtland's Warbler. As young Warblers disperse farther, their chances of encountering a suitable mate dwindle rapidly. Today, dispersion would only deny young warblers the chance to breed. Kirtland's Warblers were thought to have been far more numerous in the past (Ludkin,1985), so dispersion probably once benefitted the species.

Another popular idea is that dispersion of young occurs as a result of navigational errors. The main Kirtland's Warbler breeding area in Michigan can fit in a square 65 kilometers on a side(Mayfield 1984). This is quite a small target for an inexperienced bird returning from its first migration; an error of a couple hundred kilometers could place the warbler on the wrong side of one of the Great Lakes. The young of other species have been shown to make similar errors such as failing to correct course after being blown east or west by winds. In any case, it is clear that not enough young Kirtland's Warblers return to Michigan to build up the population.

An ambitious study just beginning at the Chio State University is aimed at getting more Kirtland's Warblers onto the breeding grounds and starting new colonies. The idea is to capture warblers in late summer before they migrate, hold them in captivity over winter, and release them onto suitable unoccupied sites in spring. For the winter pairs would be housed in large indoor aviaries. Hopefully, pair bonds would form prior to release. In spring, pairs would be transferred to outdoor aviaries in an appropriate jack pine stand. Before release they would remain there for up to two weeks to accustom them to the site. This technique is known as "soft release." Hopefully, after soft release,birds would remain on the site and breed, forming a new colony. Success of the project depends upon birds taking well to captivity and then breeding upon release on their sites. Presently, an individual Kirtland's Warbler faces several obstacles before it can breed: long hazardous migration, dispersion to areas where there is little chance of locating a mate, finding suitable habitat, locating a mate when the species is so few. If the planned scheme works, all of these obstacles can be cleared away for a group of warblers.

The Kirtland's Warbler Today (concluded)

Of course, it is important to mention that the study will not actually involve any Kirtland's Warblers; they are too precious to risk on any untried scheme. Instead,a surrogate species will be used. Just as Andean Condors were studied to learn about California Condors, Nashville Warblers will be used in place of Kirtland's Warblers. Nashvilles were chosen for several reasons. Like the Kirtland's Warbler, they are ground nesters. Also, they use the same habitat and are common on the Kirtland's Warbler breeding grounds in Michigan.

If the project is successful with Nashville Warblers,Kirtland's Warblers may be used in the future. Success with Kirtland's Warblers could mean that colonies could be set up in any appropriate habitat hopefully increasing the total population. Also, if the population should dwindle, the techniques for maintaining warblers in captivity would already be available to aid captive breeding programs.

The stability of the current Kirtland's Warbler population is cause for optimism. Also, there has recently been excitement over Kirtland's Warblers setting up territories far from the traditional Michigan breeding grounds. There are records from Wisconsin, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Quebec, and Ontario. This is evidence of the dispersion discussed above. All published records of Kirtland's Warblers in Canada are listed in Table 1. Despite their rarity, there are a surprising number of records,suggesting they return not just to Michigan.As mentioned earlier, public access to breeding areas is controlled. Tje only way to get in is on a guided warbler tour. Such tours are free and will be conducted daily between May 15 and July 4. They originate from two towns,Grayling and Mio. For detailed information contact one of the following:

USF & WS, c/o DNR
Grayling Field Office
P.O. Box 507
Grayling, Michigan 49738
Phone: 517-348-6371

USFS District Ranger
Huron National Forest
Mio, Michigan 48647
Phone: 517-826-3252

Literature Cited:

1)Fretwell, S. 1981. What's holding down the Kirtland's Warbler? Bird Watch. 9(7): 1-2.

2) Hill, Harry R. 1985. Situation Report,Kirtland's Warbler,1985. Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Wildlife Division Report No. 3006.

3)Ludkin, Rick. 1985. A golden era(maybe). Wood Duck. 38(6):114-117

4)Mayfield, Harold F. 1983. Kirtland's Warbler,victim of its own rarity? Auk 100: 974-976.

5)_____1984. Kirtland's Warbler: why so rare? The Living Bird Quarterly. 3(2): 4-8.

6)Probst, John R. 1985. Summer records and management implications of Kirtland's Warbler in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Jack-pine Warbler. 63(in press).

7)_____in press. A review of factors limiting the Kirtland's Warbler on the breeding grounds. American Midland Naturalist.

8) Ryell,Lawrence A. 1981. Population change in the Kirtland's Warbler. Jack-pine Warbler. 59: 76-91.

9) Walkinshaw, Lawrence H. 1983. Kirtland's Warbler: the Natural History of an Endangered Species. Cranbrook Institute of Science

Table 1. Kirtland's Warbler Records in Canada.
All records from Ontario unless otherwise specified *denotes singing bird on territory.

DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
16 May, 1900	Toronto	male
2 Oct. 1915	Point Pelee	immature male
May-June, 1916 *	Petawawa Military Camp	possibly several birds
5 June, 1939 *	Petawawa Military Camp	male
31 Aug. 1941	Long Point	male
30 May, 1947	Toronto	
14 Sept. 1948	Pickering, Durham Co.	
10 May, 1953	Point Pelee	male
18-20 May, 1958	Toronto	
8-30 June, 1958 *	McVicar, Bruce Co.	male
10 May, 1959	Point Pelee	male
24 May, 1959	Toronto	
13 May, 1961	Point Pelee	
18 May, 1982	Whitby, Ontario Co.	
19 May, 1962	Point Traverse, Prince Edward Co.	
1 June, 1963	Whitby, Ontario Co.	
12 May, 1964	Cataraqui Cemetery, Prince Edward Co.	
16-20 May, 1964	Barrie, Simcoe Co.	male
19 May, 1967	Little Lake, Simcoe Co.	
8 June, 1977 *	Petawawa Military Camp	male, remained into July (banded)
27 May, 1978 *	Gatineau Valley near Kazabazua, Quebec	male, remained through June
2 June, 1978 *	Petawawa Military Camp	male, same bird as June 8, 1977
14-18 May, 1979	Whitby, Ontario Co.	male
June, 1985 *	Southern Ontario (unspecified location)	male

****

ANYONE FOR A PADDLE?

If there are any members of the Club who would like to go canoeing or birdwatching in Coote's Paradise during the week, Anne Watts has the canoe and paddles. She just needs a fellow paddler. Anne may be reached at 637-9592.

AUTO PARTS AND ACID RAIN ...
THE IMPLICATIONS OF FREE TRADE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

by Margaret Mackenzie

I was suprised when reading my summer '86 edition of Nature Canada, to find an article advocating that environmentalists be invited to the free trade negotiating table. I knew there had been a tarriff imposed on shakes and shingles, but I hardly felt one was imminent on all those Canadian geese we had been shipping, with our compliments, to the United States. I was sure that all of those lovely toxic chemicals which New York has been dumping into the Niagara River passed into Canada without going through customs. So what, I wondered, did free trade negotiations have to do with environmental issues. After reading the article, "Seeking a Voice at the Free Trade Talks" by Andrew Nikiforuk, I understood. Implications of free trade could include, "industrial pollution havens, lower environmental standards, the loss of important government subsidies and even a $100 billion water export scheme that would turn much of James Bay into a freshwater lake". (see footnote 1.)

Much of the concern centres around innocuous sounding initials NTB. NTB stands for Non-Tarriff Barriers, which in turn stands for any form of government assistance which may give a trading partner an edge; such as quotas or subsidies. An example on an NTB is federal aid to pulp and paper companies to replant trees. Another insidious way by which a government could give their industries an unfair advantage, according to the NTB theory, is by offering tax incentives for pollution control. Under a free trade agreement NTB's would be prohibited and that is one reason why environmentalists should keep a watchful eye on the progress of free trade negotiations.

It is unclear as to exactly what will qualify as an NTB but the implications for environmental safeguards could be considerable. An example mentioned in the article poses the following scenario. Ontario wants to convert its thermal power plant to lower sulphur coal to reduce emissions causing acid rain. Instead of using imported U.S. coal, a switch is made to cleaner Alberta coal. An argument could be put forward that the requirement for the lower sulphur coal was an NTB designed to undermine U.S. coal producers, and therefore not allowable under a comprehensive free trade agreement. This philosophy could be expanded to many of our present environmental incentives and controls.

And there's more. Free trade means free competition, which means the advantage will go to the country which produces the best product at the lowest cost. Cost efficiency means expenses must be reduced. This will most likely be done by reducing social programs, labour benefits and environmental safeguards.

In a free trade agreement, a country must concentrate on what it does best to prosper. This will accentuate Canada's role as a provider of raw materials. If Canada supplies cheap water and electricity to the United States(two areas in which we have an advantage) the water conservation methods which America is presently practising could be undermined.

Although the free trade agreement would be signed between nations, pollution laws vary from province to province and state to state. Free trade could cause businesses to look to the area with the most lax environmental standards for development. Development means jobs and tax revenues, so various areas might feel pressured to lower environmental standards to attract development. This would be especially detrimental in Canada, where our northern environments are by nature more fragile and more in need of protection.

Auto Parts and Acid Rain... etc. (continued)

Experience has shown that the best corporate citizens are those which have a vested interest in the community. In other words, they breathe the same air and drink the same water. Economists predict, however, that multinationals will benefit most from a free trade agreement. This leads to larger economy of scale and fewer small, community businesses and industries. Local environment will not be a high priority for companies with administrative offices thousands of miles away.

Perhaps we can put our trust in our government negotiators. They have already indicated that our social programs and communi-. cations industry will not be put on the table(a stand not comfirmed by our U.S. counterparts). Surely they will not bargain away our environment! Think again. Did you know that our chief negotiator, Simon Reisman, last year advocated that a massive water diversion scheme (despite its considerable potential for environmental damage) be used as a bargaining leverage in free trade talks? Bruce MacDonald, spokesman for Reisman's Office says that the fact that no environmentalists are involved in trade negotiations "reflects the view that environmental issues are not likely to be involved at all"! (see footnote 2.)

I do not have the economic background to either recommend or counsel against free trade. I am now convinced, however, that environmentalists should concern themselves with the direction of the free trade negotiations. Unfortunately,we cannot escape the fact that the environment is an economic issue. Our environmental safeguards must themselves be safeguarded.

FOOTNOTES

1. Andrew Nikiforuk, "Seeking a Voice at the Free Trade Talks," Nature Canada, Vol. 15,No.3(Summer 1986): p.38.
2. Ibid. pp 42-43.

Author's Note: I highly recommend reading the above-mentioned article. Nature Canada is one of the publications available at the library table at monthly meetings. Also, the Canadian Nature Federation has prepared a brief dealing with the implications of free trade. It is available from them (75 Albert Street, Suite 203, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6G1) at a cost of $1.00 to cover postage and handling.

****

NOTICE OF OCTOBER MEETING

TIME	Monday, October 6, 1986 - 8:00 p.m.
PLACE	Royal Botanical Gardens Centre Auditorium Plains Road West, Burlington
TOPIC	"The Mystique of Long Point". Mr. George Pond's superb film on Long Point.
	Annual General Meeting.

The November meeting will revert to the second Monday of the month (our usual day).

Vol. 40, No. 2.

NOTEWORTHY BIRD RECORDS

Number of species recorded to December 31, 1985 - 269
Number of species recorded to July 31, 1986 - 233
* indicates first record for the year.
F indicates first record for the migration.
L indicates last record for the migration.
Underlined species or dates indicates that a written documentation is required.

AUGUST, 1985

Western Kingbird	Aug 24*	1		David B. Freeland

MAY

Common Loon	May 31	9	LaSalle Park	Kevin McLaughlin
	May 31	2	Fifty Point C.A.	Robert Curry
Red-necked Grebe	May 4:24	27:16	Shoreacres	McLaughlin,Denys Gardiner
	May 31	12	Spencer Smith Park	McLaughlin
Double-crest. Cormorant	May 4	20	Toll Gate Ponds	Gardiner,William Smith
American Bittern	May 12*	1	Bronte	Mark Jennings
Great Egret	May 4	1	High Level Bridge	Jennings, Ian Richards
	May 4	2	Toll Gate Ponds	Gardiner, Smith
	May 18	1	Dundas Marsh	Robert Finlayson
	May 24	2	Toll Gate Ponds	McLaughlin
Snowy Egret	May 24*-31	2	"	"
Oldsquaw	May 25	30	Lake at Burloak Dr.	"
White-winged Scoter	May 25	4	"	"
Bufflehead	May 5L	1	Bronte	Jennings
Common Merganser	May 24	1	Toll Gate Ponds	McLaughlin
Red-breast. Merganser	May 31	1	"	Gardiner
Ruddy Duck	May 21	3	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
Osprey	May 19L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Cooper's Hawk	May 4	1	Shell Park, Bronte	Jennings, Richards
	May 21	1	Martin's L.,Ancaster	Curry et al
Broad-winged Hawk	May 17*	1	Bronte	Jennings
Virginia Rail	May 4*	1	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
Semipalmated Plover	May 17*	7	Bronte	Doug Harding,Jennings
	May 24L	1:4	Bronte:Smithville	Jennings:McLaughlin
Greater Yellowlegs	May 24L	1	Bronte	Gardiner, Jennings
Lesser Yellowlegs	May 19L	2	Smithville S. Ponds	Gardiner
Solitary Sandpiper	May 2*	1	Bronte	Jennings
Whimbrel	May 23*	1	"	"
Ruddy Turnstone	May 16*	2	Ninth Line at Hwy.5	Kathleen MacNamara, John Tregurtha
	May 31	12	LaSalle Park	McLaughlin
Sanderling	May 31*	1	Winona S. Ponds	Curry
Semipalmated Sandpiper	May 17*	5	Ninth Line at Hwy.5	MacNamara,Ralph Speak
	May 24	20	Smithville S. Ponds	McLaughlin
Least Sandpiper	May 5*	1	Ninth Line at Dundas St.	Gardiner et al
	May 17	23	Bronte	Harding, Jennings
White-rump. Sandpiper	May 19*	1	Smithville S. Ponds	Gardiner
	May 25L	1	Bronte	Jennings
	May 25L	1	Winona S. Ponds	Curry
Pectoral Sandpiper	May 9L	5	Ninth Line at Hwy.5	MacNamara, Tregurtha
Dunlin	May 16*	17	"	"
	May 17	36	Bronte	Jennings
	May 19	60	Winona S. Ponds	Curry, Gardiner
Short-bill. Dowitcher	May 16*	22	Ninth Line at Hwy.5	MacNamara, Tregurtha
	May 17	13	Bronte	Harding, Jennings
Little Gull	May 19	1	Spencer Smith Park	Gardiner
	May 23	1	Bronte	Jennings

Bonaparte's Gull	May 23	100	Bronte	Jennings
Common Tern	May 14	110	"	"
Black Tern	May 9*	1	"	"
	May 19	2	Fifty Point C.A.	Gardiner
	May 24	4	Van Wagner's Marsh	McLaughlin
Yellow-bill. Cuckoo	May 27*	1	Dundas Dump	Finlayson
Common Nighthawk	May 25*	1	Dundas	"
Chimney Swift	May 4*	2	"	"
	May 14	25	Brant St. Burl.	Gardiner
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	May 15*	1	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
Pileated Woodpecker	May 17	1	Bronte	Harding
Eastern Wood Pewee	May 15*	1	"	Gardiner, Jennings
Yellow-bell. Flycatcher	May 13*	1	Dundas	Finlayson
	May 31L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
	May 31L	2	Shoreacres	Gardiner
Alder Flycatcher	May 15*	1	Bronte	"
	May 31L	2	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Willow Flycatcher	May 15*	1	Bronte	Nancy Lyne, Jennings
Least Flycatcher	May 31L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Eastern Kingbird	May 2*	3	Bronte	Jennings
Winter Wren	May 8L	1	"	"
Marsh Wren	May 17*	1	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
Golden-crown. Kinglet	Apr. 29L	1	Bronte	Jennings
Ruby-crown. Kinglet	May 19L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Gardiner
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	May	2 nests	Burloak Woods	Jennings
	May 17	6	Bronte	"
Eastern Bluebird	May 19	2	Coker Rd.	Gardiner
	May 25	1	RBG Arboretum	Finlayson
Veery	May 2*	1	Bronte	Jennings
	May 25L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Gray-check. Thrush	May 31*	1	"	Curry
Swainson's Thrush	May 9*	1	Sheridan Coll. Oakville	MacNamara
	May 31L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Hermit Thrush	May 11L	3	Bronte	Jennings
	May 11L	1	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
Wood Thrush	May 4*	1	Bronte	Jennings
Gray Catbird	May 1F	1	Dundas	Finlayson
Water Pipit	May 25L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
White-eyed Vireo	May 5*	1	Burloak Woods,Bronte	Jennings
Solitary Vireo	May 19L	2	Shoreacres	Gardiner
Yellow-throated Vireo	May 1*	1	Burloak Woods	Jennings
Philadelphia Vireo	May 13*	1	"	"
Red-eyed Vireo	May 13*	1	"	"
Blue-winged Warbler	May 5*	2	Bronte	"
Golden-winged Warbler	May 10*	1	Beamer C.A.	Michael Clark
	May 17L	1	Bronte	Jennings
"Brewster's" Warbler	May 9*	1	"	Brian Wylie
Tennessee Warbler	May 5*	1	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
	May 5*	1	Walker's Line at Lake	Gardiner
	May 25L	3	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Orange-crown. Warbler	May 4*	2	High Level Bridge	Jennings, Richards
	May 4*	1	Shoreacres	"
	May 17L	1	Shell Park, Bronte	Jennings
Nashville Warbler	May 31L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Northern Parula	May 10*	1	Beamer C.A.	Clark
	May 17L	1	Bronte	Jennings
Chestnut-sided Warbler	May 5*	1	Shoreacres	Gardiner
	May 5*	1	Bronte	Jennings
	May 25L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Magnolia Warbler	May 5*	2	Shoreacres	Gardiner
	May 17	30	Bronte	Jennings
	May 31L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry

Cape May Warbler	May 11*	2	Burloak Woods	Jennings
	May 25L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	May 5*	1	Bronte Woods	Jennings
	May 21L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Yellow-rumped Warbler	May 19L	1	Shoreacres	Gardiner
Black-thr. Green Warbler	May 5*	1	"	"
	May 25L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Blackburnian Warbler	May 1*	1	Burloak Woods	Jennings
	May 25L	4	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Pine Warbler	May 24	1	Beverly Swamp	Gardiner
Palm Warbler	May 5	20	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
	May 15L	1	Shell Park	Jennings
Bay-breasted Warbler	May 5*	1	Bronte Harbour	"
	May 25L	2	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Blackpoll Warbler	May 19*	1	"	"
	May 31L	2	"	"
Cerulean Warbler	May 10*	1	Beamer C.A.	Clark
Black and White Warbler	May 31L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
American Redstart	May 10*	1	Beamer C.A.	Clark
	May 17	14	Bronte	Jennings
	May 31L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
	May 31L	2	Shoreacres	Gardiner
Ovenbird	May 2*	1	Shell Park	Jennings
Northern Waterthrush	May 18L	1	Bronte	"
Louisiana Waterthrush	May 4,5	1	Shell Park	"
	May 4,5	1	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
	May 31	1	Tiffany Falls	McLaughlin
Connecticut Warbler	May 30*	1	Dundas	Finlayson
Mourning Warbler	May 9*	1	Burloak Woods	Brian Wylie
	May 31L	2	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
	May 31L	1	Shoreacres	Gardiner
Common Yellowthroat	May 1*	1	Shell Park	Jennings
	May 31L	2	Shoreacres	Gardiner
Wilson's Warbler	May 15*	6	Bronte	Jennings
	May 31L	2	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
	May 31L	2	Shoreacres	Gardiner
Canada Warbler	May 13*	1	Burloak Woods	Jennings
	May 31L	2	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
	May 31L	3	Shoreacres	Gardiner
Yellow-breasted Chat	May 7*	1	Bronte Harbour	Jennings
Summer Tanager	May 7*	1	Burloak Woods	"
Scarlet Tanager	May 11*	1	"	"
Indigo Bunting	May 9*	1	"	"
Grasshopper Sparrow	May 4*,5	1	Bronte	Gardiner, Jennings
	May 22-27	1	Berry C.A.	Wylie
	May 24	5	Beverly Swamp	Gardiner
Lincoln's Sparrow	May 19L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
White-throat. Sparrow	May 17L	5	Bronte	Jennings
White-crown. Sparrow	May 1F:5	2:47	Bronte	"
	May 19L	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Dark-eyed Junco	May 13L	1	Shell Park	Jennings
Rusty Blackbird	Apr 29L	6	Bronte	"
Orchard Oriole	May 5*	1	Bronte Harbour	"
	May 23	1	Watson's L., Dundas	Wylie
	May 27	1	Berry C.A.	"
	May 31	1	King Rd. Burlington	McLaughlin
Northern Oriole	May 5*	7	Bronte	Jennings
	May 5*	4	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
	May 5*	2	Shoreacres	Gardiner
Purple Finch	May 13L	2	Shell Park	"

Evening Grosbeak	May 2	12	Dundas	Finlayson
	May 7	3	Bronte	Jennings, McLaughlin
	May 10L	1	Beamer C.A.	Clark

JUNE

Common Loon	June 8L	2	Spencer Smith Park	McLaughlin
Pied-billed Grebe	June 15	7yon	Dry Lake, Cayuga	"
Horned Grebe	June 8L	3	Lake at Burlington	Jennings, Wylie
Red-necked Grebe	June 8	11	Spencer Smith Park	McLaughlin
	June 14	2	Arkendo Dr.Oakville	"
	June 21	7	Spencer Smith Park	Curry
Double-crest. Cormorant	June 1	110	Toll Gate Ponds	Jennings,Richards,Wylie
American Bittern	June 7	2	NW of Lion Safari	Curry
Great Egret	June 7	1	Toll Gate Ponds	McLaughlin
Snowy Egret	June 1-30	2	"	m. obs.
Cattle Egret	June 14*	1	"	McLaughlin
Wood Duck	June 8	8yon	Smithville S. Ponds	"
American Wigeon	June 1	3	Mountsberg C.A.	"
	June 8	2	Windermere Basin	"
Canvasback	June 14	1	Desjardins Canal	Finlayson
Redhead	June 30F	3	Toll Gate Ponds	Curry
Greater Scaup	June 1	8	Windermere Basin	McLaughlin
Lesser Scaup	June 21	4	"	Curry et al
Oldsquaw	June 8:14	11	Spencer Smith Pk.:Bronte	McLaughlin
White-winged Scoter	June 5	1	Dundas Hydro Pond	Christine Bishop
	June 8	1	Beach Canal	McLaughlin
Osprey	June 5	2	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
	June 8	1	Taquanyah C.A.	Lyne
	June 30F	1	Fifty Point C.A.	Curry
Piping Plover	June 1*	1	Toll Gate Ponds	John Keenleyside, Lou Marsh, Ron Scovell
	June 2L	1	"	m. obs.
(first Hamilton record since July, 1975)				
Lesser Yellowlegs	June 23F	1	Bronte	Jennings
Solitary Sandpiper	June 1L	1	"	"
Upland Sandpiper	June 30	10	Brittania Rd.Oakville	MacNamara
Ruddy Turnstone	June 14L	1	Toll Gate Ponds	McLaughlin
Red Knot	June 14*	1	"	"
Semipalmated Sandpiper	June 24L	1	Bronte	Jennings
Least Sandpiper	June 7L	1	Toll Gate Ponds	McLaughlin
	June 23F	1	Bronte	Jennings
Dunlin	June 3	1 (1st summer)	Bronte	"
	June 15L	1	Windermere Basin	Wylie
Short-bill. Dowitcher	June 7:8L	2:1	Toll Gate Ponds	McLaughlin
	June 30F	2	"	Curry
Wilson's Phalarope	June 15*	1	Windermere Basin	Wylie
Franklin's Gull	June 15*	1ad	NW of Streetsville	Curry, Gary Grossman, MacNamara, Speak
Bonaparte's Gull	June 7	11	Fifty Point C.A.	McLaughlin
Great Black-back. Gull	June 21	1 (1st summer)	LaSalle Pk.	Curry et al
Forster's Tern	June 1	2	Toll Gate Ponds	Gardiner
Whi-poor-will	(no spring or summer records?)			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	June 8*	1	Spencer Creek at Dundas	Finlayson
Cliff Swallow	June	nest	Bronte	Jennings
Red-breasted Nuthatch	June 1-30	1	92 Hostein Dr.Ancaster	Curry
Winter Wren	June 7	1	Spencer Creek at Dundas	Finlayson
Eastern Bluebird	June 1	2	Beverly	Gardiner
Golden-winged Warbler	June 30	1	Safari Rd.at Hwy. 52	Wylie
Tennessee Warbler	June 25	1	92 Hostein Dr.Ancaster	Curry
Prothonotary Warbler	June 21*	1male	Dundas Marsh willows	Bryant, Curry, Verne Evans, John Olmsted

Louisiana Waterthrush	June 9	2ad 2yon	Tiffany Falls	Wylie
Grasshopper Sparrow	June 1	15	Beverly Swamp	Gardiner
	June 11	3	Berry C.A.	Wylie
White-throated Sparrow	June 21	3	Lake Medad	Bryant, Curry
Orchard Oriole	June 1	1	Berry C.A.	McLaughlin
	June 21	1	Martin's Lane,Ancaster	Curry et al

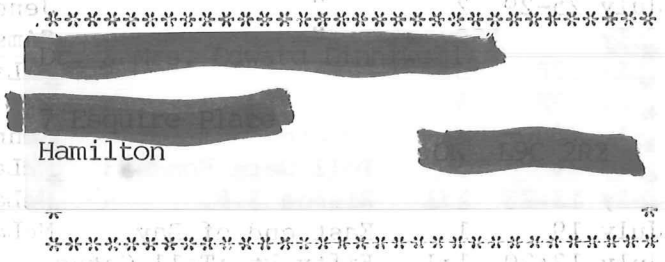
JULY

Double-crest. Cormorant	July 7	nests	Toll Gate Ponds	Len Simser
Snowy Egret	July 6	nest 3 young	Toll Gate Ponds	Bryant, Curry
(first nesting record for Canada)				
Cattle Egret	July 5	2	Toll Gate Ponds	McLaughlin
	July 13	2	"	Curry
	July 25-29	2	"	Jennings
Black-crown.Night Heron	July	183 nests	"	Simser
Northern Pintail	July 12F	3	"	McLaughlin
American Wigeon	July 13F	5	"	"
Redhead	July 22	2	Bronte	Jennings
	July 26	5	Toll Gate Ponds	McLaughlin
Greater Scaup	July 12:23	1:1	Winona S.P.	McLaughlin:Curry
	July 19	1	East end of Bay	McLaughlin
Hooded Merganser	July 12:20	1:1	Fifty Pt.:Toll Gates	"
Ruddy Duck	July 19	1	Toll Gate Ponds	"
Black-bellied Plover	July 5*:6	2	"	McLaughlin:Curry
	July 12:13	1ad	"	"
	July 19	1 (1st summer)	Toll Gate Ponds	McLaughlin
Greater Yellowlegs	July 12F	4	Millgrove	Clark
Lesser Yellowlegs	July 24	16	Ninth Line at Hwy.5	MacNamara
	July 29	27	Winona S. Ponds	Jennings
Spotted Sandpiper	July 29	22	"	"
Upland Sandpiper	July 7F	1	over York Rd.	Wylie
	July 27	11	Flamborough Downs	McLaughlin
Semipalmated Sandpiper	July 6F	1	Toll Gate Ponds	Bryant, Curry
	July 30	25	Whaley's Corners Ponds	Jennings, Wylie
Pectoral Sandpiper	July 30F	7	"	Jennings, Wylie
Wilson's Phalarope	July 14F	1	Toll Gate Ponds	Curry
Bonaparte's Gull	July 5	13	"	McLaughlin
	July 23F	7ad	Winona S. Ponds	Curry
Great Black-back. Gull	July 6F	1 (2nd summer)	LaSalle Pk.	McLaughlin
	July 12	1ad	Beach Canal	"
Caspian Tern	July 14	48 nests	Toll Gate Ponds	Curry,Chip Weseloh
(first nesting record for Hamilton)				
Common Tern	July	279 young	Islands off Indian Creek	Simser
Black Tern	July 5	5ad 5yon	Van Wagner's Marsh	McLaughlin
Black-billed Cuckoo	July 29*	1ad 1yon	Dundas	Finlayson
Bank Swallow	July 13	1 (leucistic)	Woodland Cemetery	McLaughlin
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	July 18	1	Joshua Creek, Oak.	MacNamara
Veery	July 30F	1	Spencer Creek at Hwy. 102	Finlayson
Swainson's Thrush	July 20F	1	Ancaster	Curry
Yellow-throated Vireo	July 13	1	Millgrove	Clark
Blue-winged Warbler	July 17	3	Safari Rd. at Hwy.52	Wylie
Black-throat. Green Warbler	July 13	1	Crawford Lake	Curry
American Redstart	July 30F	2	Dundas Marsh	Finlayson
Northern Waterthrush	July 30F	1	"	"
Louisiana Waterthrush	July 20L	1	Webster's Falls	Wylie
Hooded Warbler	July 6*-30	1male	Crawford Lake	Jennings, Lyne et al
Grasshopper Sparrow	July 16	3ad 3yon	Berry C.A.	Wylie
Bobolink	July 29	30	Winona S.P.	Jennings

- - T H E W O O D D U C K - -

SECOND CLASS MAIL
REGISTRATION NO. 6587

POSTMASTER
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
TO - P.O. BOX 5182
HAMILTON, ONTARIO
L8S 4L3



THE WOOD DUCK

TH WOOD DUCK is the official publication of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club and is produced by volunteer members of the club. THE WOOD DUCK is published nine times yearly from September to May inclusive and it is mailed free to members.

Contributions for publication are most welcome and should be addressed to the Acting Editor ('86-'87), Bruce Duncan, Box 512, Caledonia, Ontario, N0A 1A0 (phone 765-3322). Deadline for receipt of material is the first of the month preceding publication date. Articles may be reprinted without permission but credit lines would be appreciated. Send Noteworthy Bird Records to Mark Jennings, #308 - 5348 Lakeshore Rd. East, Burlington, Ontario L7L 4Z2.